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NBC

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CHICAGO OUTLET WFLD

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TIME

(FEBRUARY 7, 1935)

DATE

(FRIDAY)

DAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers"

ORCHESTRA: QUARTET: Ranger Song

ANNOUNCER: This is the time of year when the forest rangers have to cope with the heavy snows of winter in the high mountain country. The windows of the lookout stations on the mountain peaks, where during the hot dry summer the lookout man searched for the first signs of forest fires, are covered with heavy shutters. The fire tools are oiled and greased and stored -- but there are winter jobs such as cruising, timber marking and game patrol that are under way.

Up at the Pine Cone Ranger Station, Ranger Jim Robbins is getting ready for a trip up to one of the winter work camps today. And here's his young friend Billy -- the neighborhood boy who wants to be a ranger some day -- Billy's a frequent visitor at the Ranger Station -- Here they are --

BILLY: (OFF - BOY'S VOICE) Are you very busy this morning, Mr Robbins?

JIM: Come on in, Billy -- and shut the door

BILLY: Thanks Mr Robbins (SOUND OF DOOR CLOSING) -- Gee, it's sure cold out this morning, ain't it Mr Robbins?

JIM: Yep

BILLY: I bet it was down to zero -- or something -- last night

JIM: I s'pect it was

BILLY: Are you going anywhere today, Mr. Robbins?

JIM: Yep, I'm going up with the car to Pete Evans guard cabin pretty quick

BILLY: Gee Can I go too, Mr. Robbins?

JIM: Folks say you could?

BILLY: Yeah Ma said I could go if you didn't care

JIM: All right ---

BILLY: Are we about ready to go?

JIM: Just a minute, son, till I address this letter -

BESS: (COMING UP) Haven't you gone yet, Jim?

JIM: Nope I'm having an important conference with my young pardner here

BESS: Oh, hello, Billy

BILLY: Good mornning, Mrs. Robbins.

BESS: Now, Jim, don't you go fooling around so you'll be late to supper again. Billy can't you get him started?

BILLY: Gee, I'm ready, Mrs. Robbins

JIM: We've got plenty of time, Bess It isn't like the old days before autos and good roads You remember it used to be a good two days' trip with a saddle horse up to Bald Mountain and back Now we can leave here at noon and be back by dark

BESS: All right, have it your own way, - only please drive carefully this morning, Jim You know these mountain roads are dangerous when there's snow

JIM: That's right, Bess --

BESS: And the way some people drive is awful. It's a wonder there aren't more accidents.

JIM: Well, as a rule, folks are more careful on these twisty mountain roads than they are on the main highways. But seems like there's bound to be somebody that wants to pass everybody on the road. Up in the hills it's speed or poor brakes that cause most of the accidents or because the drivers haven't had experience on sharp curves -- But don't worry, Bess. We'll be careful. -- Come on, Billy, let's get going.

BILLY: All right. So long, Mrs. Robbins!

JIM: We'll be home in time for supper, Bess.

BESS: I've heard that before.

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

SOUND OF MOTOR THROUGH FOLLOWING CONVERSATION

JIM: Pretty slipper at that, ain't it, Billy?

BILLY: Yeah. Gee I'll bet there's a lot of snow up on the peak.

JIM: Yep. People down in the valleys don't always realize that a little storm in the lower country sometimes means a lot of snow up in the mountains.

BILLY: Bald Peak is pretty high, ain't it?

JIM: Only about 8,000 feet. There's lots of higher lookouts out here in the West.

BILLY: What's the highest lookout, Mr. Robbins?

JIM: I reckon the lookout on Mt. Hood in the Mt. Hood National Forest in Oregon is the highest. It's 11,225 feet, if I remember right.

- BILLY: Gee, I'll bet the lookout man can see a fire a long ways off
- JIM: He sure can. He can see lots of country and lots of timber - ten billion board feet, they tell me, - and that's about one-third of all the lumber used in the United States in a year
- BILLY: Where's Lassen Peak Mr Robbins? Our teacher was telling us about it the other day
- JIM: Lassen Peak? That's in California. We used to have a lookout there too but it isn't a lookout point any more. When the old mountain started its volcano going, back in 1914, the eruption destroyed the house and it was never rebuilt.
- BILLY: Gee what happened to the lookout man? Did he get killed?
- JIM: No, he wasn't there at the time. The eruption occurred the last of May, before the fire season started, and there was ten feet of snow on top of the mountain when she blew up.
- BILLY: Gee. I'll bet it was exciting. The teacher said it was a dead volcano that came to life again and started shooting smoke and steam and lava and everything.
- JIM: It sure did cause excitement. Harvey Abbey, one of our old-time forest rangers, - he's retired now, - told us all about it once. He was the first man to get up on the peak and have a look at the only active volcano in the United States while it was still going.
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BILLY: He sure had lots of nerve. Gee, I wouldn't want to go fooling around with a volcano.

JIM: Well, Harvey was that way, and he wasn't so surprised at the old mountain acting up, after all. You see, the lookout house was built in 1913 and Abbey, - he was the district ranger, - he had a man named Packard up on the lookout. Packard kept telling Abbey all that year about rumblings and grumblings inside the mountain, accompanied by little earthquakes. He was dead sure something was going to happen, but Abbey just laughed at him. But Packard was a true prophet because the next spring, on May 30, the eruption came.

BILLY: Where was Mr. Abbey when it happened?

JIM: He and a crew of rangers were at the Mineral Ranger Station about ten miles away. But you could see the blow-up for hundreds of miles. The smoke and steam went up like a big mushroom for thousands of feet in the air.

BILLY: Gee!

JIM: It looked like the smoke from a great big forest fire. But there couldn't be any fire on the mountain at that time of year so everybody just had to believe that Mount Lassen had come to life again.

BILLY: What happened to the lookout house? Was it burned up?

JIM: No, it got knocked to pieces and buried. Abbey told me that when he first went up, the day after the eruption, the lookout house was still standing. Then the volcano began shooting out big boulders and later when Abbey led a party of scientists and photographers up there, several weeks after the first eruption, they found the roof caved in and about three feet of ashes and lava boulders on the floor. The next time he went up the building was completely wrecked.

BILLY: That's why they don't use it for a lookout any more, huh? It'd be too dangerous.

JIM: It isn't dangerous any more. They've established a park and there's good roads around there now so that tourists can drive most anywhere. When Harvey Abbey was district ranger only about 200 people a year used to climb the mountain. Now they say over 5,000 people made the climb up Lassen Peak last summer.

BILLY: Gee---Gee there's a lot of cars on the road today. Mr. Robbins.

JIM: Yep, this road is used quite a bit in winter.

BILLY: I bet some of them ain't very good drivers either. Did you see that car up there skid around the turn?

JIM: I sure did. Lots of drivers don't seem to know that if you slam on the brakes real quick on a slippery road it means a skid sure.

BILLY: Look! See the cars stopping? Something must have happened!

JIM: Looks like it's an accident all right.

SOUND OF MOTOR UP - FADING INTO EXCITED HUM OF VOICES

VOICE: (OFF) Here comes the ranger (CALLS) Hey, Ranger, help quick.

JIM: (COMING UP) What's the trouble here?

VOICE: A car skidded and turned over - there's two people in it!

VOICE: Get a jack somebody - get a jack!

JIM: I'm afraid a jack wouldn't hold on that slippery sidehill.

BILLY: Gee! Hear 'em groaning, Mr. Robbins? - They must be hurt bad.

VOICE: What're you going to do, Ranger? - We've got to act quick.

JIM: Have you tried lifting the car?

VOICE: We don't dare. See - it's right on the edge - if you move it, it'll slide off down the grade sure.

JIM: Yep, you're right - Hm'm -- if someone could only get under that running board and brace 'er.

VOICE: That'd be pretty dangerous, Mister.

JIM: Here, Billy, hold my coat.

VOICE: You're liable to get killed under there, Ranger!

JIM: We've got to help them. Can't let 'em suffer under there -- Now when I get under and lift, some of you fellows pull 'em out.

VOICE: Okay, - but be careful Ranger

VOICE: Hurry. Ranger, hurry. The car's slipping

JIM: (OFF - MUFFLED GRUNTING) - Wait till I get my feet braced. Ready now -

VOICE: All ready - I'll crawl under and drag 'em out

VOICE: He's holding 'er - Attaboy, ranger!

VOICE: Here, somebody - help me get this girl out - Easy now!

JIM: (OFF) (WEAKLY) Hurry you fellows - it's ---

VOICE: Here fellows - grap hold and help lift

VOICE: We've got 'em - - all right

(HUM OF VOICES UP)

VOICE: Are you all right Ranger?

JIM: Yep

VOICE: You're a brave man Ranger

JIM: (OUT OF BREATH) Never mind about me. - Are the people badly hurt?

VOICE: They're cut up considerable - looks like the man has a broken leg

JIM: Here, help me lift them into my car - be careful now - Put the girl in the front seat and the man in the back - Billy, you get the first aid kit out of my carrying case will you? -- One of you fellows get the names of witnesses

VOICE: That are you going to do, ranger?

JIM: Take 'em to a doctor, quick as I can

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

BESS: Now where do you suppose Jim is? Mary, you might just as well get used to guessing when to have supper - I mean of course, if you ever marry a forest ranger

MARY: (EMBARRASSED) Well yes, it does seem a problem Isn't there any way to solve it?

BESS: I guess not Really I've just about decided to -

MARY: Mrs Robbins, I don't think they stay away because they want to I'm sure they'd much rather be home on time for a good hot supper Something must have happened

TELEPHONE RINGS

BESS: There he is now - I'll just tell that Jim Robbins a few things (TO PHONE) Pine Cone Ranger Station Mrs. Robbins speaking - Is that you Jim? - What? - I can't hear you - Oh, the Big Bend Hospital!

MARY: Oh, Mrs Robbins, what's happened?

BESS: Just a minute, Mary (TO PHONE) - They're out of danger - and doing fine - Who are you talking about? Is Jim Robbins hurt? - Speak louder - Oh, Jim's all right is he? -

MARY: Oh, has something happened?

BESS: No Mary no (TO PHONE) Yes, yes, yes, I understand - the people who were hurt are doing nicely - You see I'll tell Jim when he gets home - Thank you - all right - good-bye (HANGS UP PHONE)

MARY: What's it all about Mrs. Robbins?

BESS: That was the Big Bend Hospital. They said that Jim and Billy had picked up two people who were hurt in an auto accident and brought them in. They just wanted to tell Jim that they were out of danger. I was so worried - I don't know how long it's been.

MARY: Listen - isn't that a cat coming?

BESS: Yes, that's Jim's cat. One ear is wagging his tail - he can always tell the sound of the motor. Hurry Mary, get the supper on the table.

(DOOR CREAKS AND CLOSING)

JIM: Good evening folks. How quiet it is for supper time.

BESS: I've stop you fooling. Jim Robbins, you and Billy found and got married.

JIM: What - (CHUCKLES). You don't seem to want any explanations.

MARY: Oh Mr. Robbins, tell us all about it.

JIM: Tell you about it - about what?

MARY: About the accident and the people who were hurt?

JIM: Accident? - What do you know about an accident?

BESS: The hospital just phoned to tell you that the people were out of danger.

JIM: I'm mighty glad of that.

MARY: But tell us what you did.

JIM: Oh, Billy and I just lent a helping hand.

BILLY: Gee, Mrs. Robbins - Mr. Robbins sure is awful strong -- he held up the car all by himself.

BESS: Did he, Billy? -- Well, Jim, for once I'm not going to say anything about your being late - come on, Billy, you can tell us all about it while we eat -

(ORCHESTRA)

ANNOUNCER: What happened today illustrates one kind of public service often performed by Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers during the winter months. Many of the main highways cross the high country within the National Forests and every year some inexperienced motorists take unnecessary chances in traveling them when snow is on the ground. Often these motorists are not informed as to weather conditions and are not equipped for emergencies.

It happens many times each year that the network of telephone lines, the ranger cabins and the Forest Service personnel on the National Forests are called upon to save lives of those lost or stranded in the snow. So in closing, Ranger Jim suggests that all of you who have occasion to make a trip in the high country this winter go fully equipped with skid chains and keep posted about road and weather condition.

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